

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: CLAIMS READABLE ON THE ELECTED SPECIES

Claims 1-26 have been canceled, and new claims 27-45 have been added. New claims 27-39 and 40-45 roughly correspond to original claims 1-13 and 21-25.

More specifically, new claims 27, 29-31, 36-39, 40, 41 and 43 roughly correspond to elected claims 1, 3-5, 10-13, 21, 22 and 24, respectively.

In addition, new claims 28, 32-35, 44 and 45 roughly correspond to withdrawn claims 2, 6-9, 14-20, 25 and 26, respectively. In this connection it is noted that new claims 28, 32-35, 44 and 45 all depend from new independent claims 27 and 41 which are readable on the elected species, and it is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner act on (and allow) all of these claims upon allowance of parent claims 27 and 41.

Still further, it is noted that new claim 42 is a method claim corresponding to the combined subject matter of new claims 27 and 30 (corresponding to elected original claims 1 and 4). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 42 is also readable on the elected species.

THE CLAIMS

New independent claim 27 essentially corresponds to original claim 1. New claim 27, however, clarifies the feature of the present invention whereby the endoscope image sensing apparatus comprises an image sensing device for imaging an object to obtain an image signal and outputting the image signal, and a color matrix section for performing a matrix computation to convert the image signal output from the image sensing device into a color component signal, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 12, line 23 to page 13, line 1, and at page 13, lines 1-15. In addition, new claim 27 clarifies the feature of the present invention whereby the endoscope image sensing apparatus comprises a selecting switch for selecting a kind of a light source lamp to be used in irradiation of the object, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 11, line 19 to page 12, line 6. And still further, new claim 27 clarifies the feature of the present invention whereby the endoscope image sensing apparatus comprises a control section for changing and setting a coefficient of the color matrix section based on the kind of the light source lamp which is selected by the selecting switch, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 12, lines 13-22.

New claim 30 corresponds to original claim 4, and has been prepared to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby

the apparatus comprises a storage section for storing in advance a plurality of coefficients associated with the matrix computation, wherein the control section changes and sets the coefficient by selecting one of the plurality of coefficients stored in the storage section in accordance with the kind of the light source lamp which is selected by the selecting switch, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 14, lines 6-15.

New claims 29 and 31 have been added corresponding to original claims 3 and 5, and have been prepared to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the image sensing device comprises a color CCD.

New claim 36 has been added corresponding to original claim 10, and has been prepared to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the endoscope image sensing apparatus comprises an image sensing device for imaging the object to obtain an image signal and outputting the image signal, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 12, line 23 to page 13, line 1. In addition, new claim 36 clarifies the feature of the present invention whereby the apparatus comprises a color separation circuit for separating the image signal into a luminance component and a chrominance component to generate a luminance signal and a color difference signal, and a color matrix section for performing a matrix computation to

convert the luminance and color difference signals output from the color separation circuit into three primary color signals, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 13, line 22 to page 14, line 5. Still further, new claim 36 clarifies the feature of the present invention whereby the apparatus comprises a switch provided to be operable by a user, and a control section for changing and setting a coefficient corresponding to a kind of the light source lamp based on a signal from the switch, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 14, lines 6-15.

New claim 37 has been added corresponding to original claim 11, and has been prepared to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the switch is provided on a front panel of the apparatus so as to be hand operated by the user, as supported by the disclosure in Fig. 2.

New claim 38 has been added corresponding to original claim 12, and has been prepared to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the apparatus comprises a storage section for storing a coefficient table which indicates coefficients to be used by the color matrix section, such that the coefficients respectively correspond to kinds of light source lamps, wherein the control section selects and reads out one of the coefficients indicated by the coefficient table stored in the storage section, and outputs said read out one of the

coefficients to the color matrix section, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 14, lines 6-15.

New claim 40 has been added corresponding to original claim 21, and has been prepared to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the apparatus comprises a display section for displaying a mode set by the control section, wherein when a mode corresponding to the kind of the light source lamp is selected by the switch, the display section responds, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 22, lines 11-26.

New method claim 41, moreover, has been added corresponding to new apparatus claim 27, and new method claim 42 has been added corresponding to new apparatus claim 30 in independent form.

And finally, new claims 28, 32-35, 39 and 43-45 have been added corresponding to claims 2, 6-9, 13 and 24-26 as described hereinabove.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that new claims 27-45 be approved and entered.

#### THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 3-5, 10-13, 21, 22 and 24 were all rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of USP 5,032,913 ("Hattori et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to new claims 27-45.

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 27, an endoscope image sensing apparatus is provided which comprises, in particular, a selecting switch for selecting a kind of a light source lamp to be used in irradiation of the object, and a control section for changing and setting a coefficient of the color matrix section based on the kind of the light source lamp which is selected by the selecting switch. Similarly, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 36, an endoscope image sensing apparatus is provided which comprises, in particular, a switch provided to be operable by a user, and a control section for changing and setting a coefficient corresponding to a kind of the light source lamp based on a signal from the switch. New independent method claims 41 and 42, moreover, correspond to the apparatus of new independent claim 27 and new claim 30 (which depends from new independent claim 27).

Thus, according to the claimed present invention as recited in the new claims, differences in color reproduction due to different types of light sources (such as a halogen lamp, xenon lamp or metal halide lamp), are taken into account during image signal conversion so that the image sensing apparatus and image sensing method may consistently reproduce colors independent of the type of light source. (See page 25, lines 1-12).

By contrast, Hattori et al, (which is owned by the same corporate entity as the present application), does not disclose that a number of different kinds of lamps may be selectively combined and used. Accordingly, it is respectfully pointed out that Hattori et al does not even encounter the problems solved by the present invention. And it is respectfully submitted, moreover, that Hattori et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the structural features and advantageous effects of the claimed present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each of new independent claims 27, 36, 41 and 42, as well as each of new claims 28-35, 37, 38-40, and 43-45 respectively depending therefrom, all patentably distinguish over Hattori et al under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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